

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of packaging a dynamically linked computer program function comprising:

establishing an attribute, each attribute exhibiting a plurality of at least one of variations, characteristics and parameters associated with said dynamically linked computer program function;

obtaining a source file associated with said dynamically linked computer program function;

compiling and linking said source file to create an executable file based on said at least one of variations, characteristics, and parameters for each said attribute; and

wherein said executable file is configured to facilitate choice of a selected version of said function based on a particular said at least one of variations, characteristics, and parameters for each said attribute.

2. The method of Claim 1 further including configuring an application to be responsive to said selected version of said function based on said particular at least one of variations, characteristics, and parameters for each said attribute.

3. The method of Claim 2 wherein said configuring includes compiling based on said particular at least one of variations, characteristics, and parameters for each said attribute.

4. The method of Claim 1 wherein said attribute includes: version, addressability, character code base, character set that a specific operating system supports, system linkage conventions; machine architecture, or floating point hardware.

5. The method of Claim 1 wherein said attribute is user specified.

6. The method of Claim 1 wherein said attribute is implicitly defined.

7. The method of Claim1 wherein said at least one of variations, characteristics, and parameters for each said attribute includes, 64-bit versus 32-bit addressing; ASCII versus EBCDIC, internal representation for character data, or HEX versus IEEE representation to use for floating point data.

8. The method of Claim1 wherein said at least one of variations, characteristics, and parameters for each said attribute is user specified.

9. A storage medium encoded with a machine-readable computer program code, said code including instructions for causing a computer to implement a method of packaging dynamically linked computer program function, the method comprising:

establishing an attribute, each attribute exhibiting a plurality of at least one of variations, characteristics and parameters associated with said dynamically linked computer program function;

obtaining a source file associated with said dynamically linked computer program function;

compiling and linking said source file to create an executable file based on said at least one of variations, characteristics, and parameters for each said attribute; and

wherein said executable file is configured to facilitate choice of a selected version of said function based on a particular said at least one of variations, characteristics, and parameters for each said attribute.

10. A computer data signal comprising: said computer data signal comprising code configured to cause a processor to implement a method of packaging a dynamically linked computer program function, the method comprising:

establishing an attribute, each attribute exhibiting a plurality of at least one of variations, characteristics and parameters associated with said dynamically linked computer program function;

obtaining a source file associated with said dynamically linked computer program function;

compiling and linking said source file to create an executable file based on said at least one of variations, characteristics, and parameters for each said attribute; and

wherein said executable file is configured to facilitate choice of a selected version of said function based on a particular said at least one of variations, characteristics, and parameters for each said attribute.

11. A system for packaging a dynamically linked computer program function comprising:

a means for establishing an attribute, each attribute exhibiting a plurality of at least one of variations, characteristics and parameters associated with said dynamically linked computer program function;

a means for obtaining a source file associated with said dynamically linked computer program function;

a means for compiling and linking said source file to create an executable file based on said at least one of variations, characteristics, and parameters for each said attribute; and

wherein said executable file is configured to facilitate choice of a selected version of said function based on a particular said at least one of variations, characteristics, and parameters for each said attribute.